
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

NEWS RELEASE

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Barbara A. Connors
(202) 208-0680

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2000
Docket Nos. EC00-45-000, EC00-33-000, and EC00-29-000

WISCONSIN UTILITIES' TRANSMISSION DIVESTITURE OKAYED

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission today approved Wisconsin Power & Light Company and Wisconsin Electric Power Company's (WEPCO) requests to transfer their transmission facilities to a transmission company (transco). The Wisconsin transco, created by Wisconsin law to own and operate that state's utilities' high voltage wires, is expected to be operating by November 2000.

Today's action is an interim step. The Wisconsin transco intends to transfer control of its transmission facilities to the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) in 2001.

In a separate order today, the Commission approved Alliant Energy's transfer of control of jurisdictional facilities to the Midwest ISO (EC00-29-000). Alliant's public utility subsidiaries--Wisconsin Power & Light Company, IES Utilities and Interstate Power Company-- operate in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The Commission reviewed the three proposals based on its 1996 Merger Policy Guidelines which focus on three key areas--the effect of the transaction on competition, rates and regulation. In all three cases, the Commission found that the proposed transfer of the jurisdictional transmission facilities met the public interest standard.

The Commission conditionally approved the Midwest ISO in September 1998. With ten transmission-owning utilities, the Midwest ISO covers a broad 13-state area from the Mid-Atlantic to the Midwest.